

Stonycreek River

The Upper Stonycreek River in the Upper Gorge is a classic freestone coldwater fishery, with a superb riffle to pool ratio. Its physical habitat resembles famous Pennsylvania trout streams such as Penns Creek and Kettle Creek. The best fishing is in the Upper Gorge from Shanksville to Stoystown, where access can be gained at four points: Stoystown off Route 30; the Kimmeltown Bridge along Pompey Hill Road below the gorge; Glessner's Covered Bridge along Covered Bridge Road above the gorge; and Shanksville, just upstream of Glessner's Bridge. The Upper Gorge serpents for nine miles while dropping 500 feet in elevation. The stream itself is moderately wide with a very rocky bottom that makes wading difficult in most places. The river begins at Pius Spring in Berlin south of the PA Turnpike and continues for 43 miles to Johnstown, where it joins the Little Conemaugh River to form the Conemaugh River.



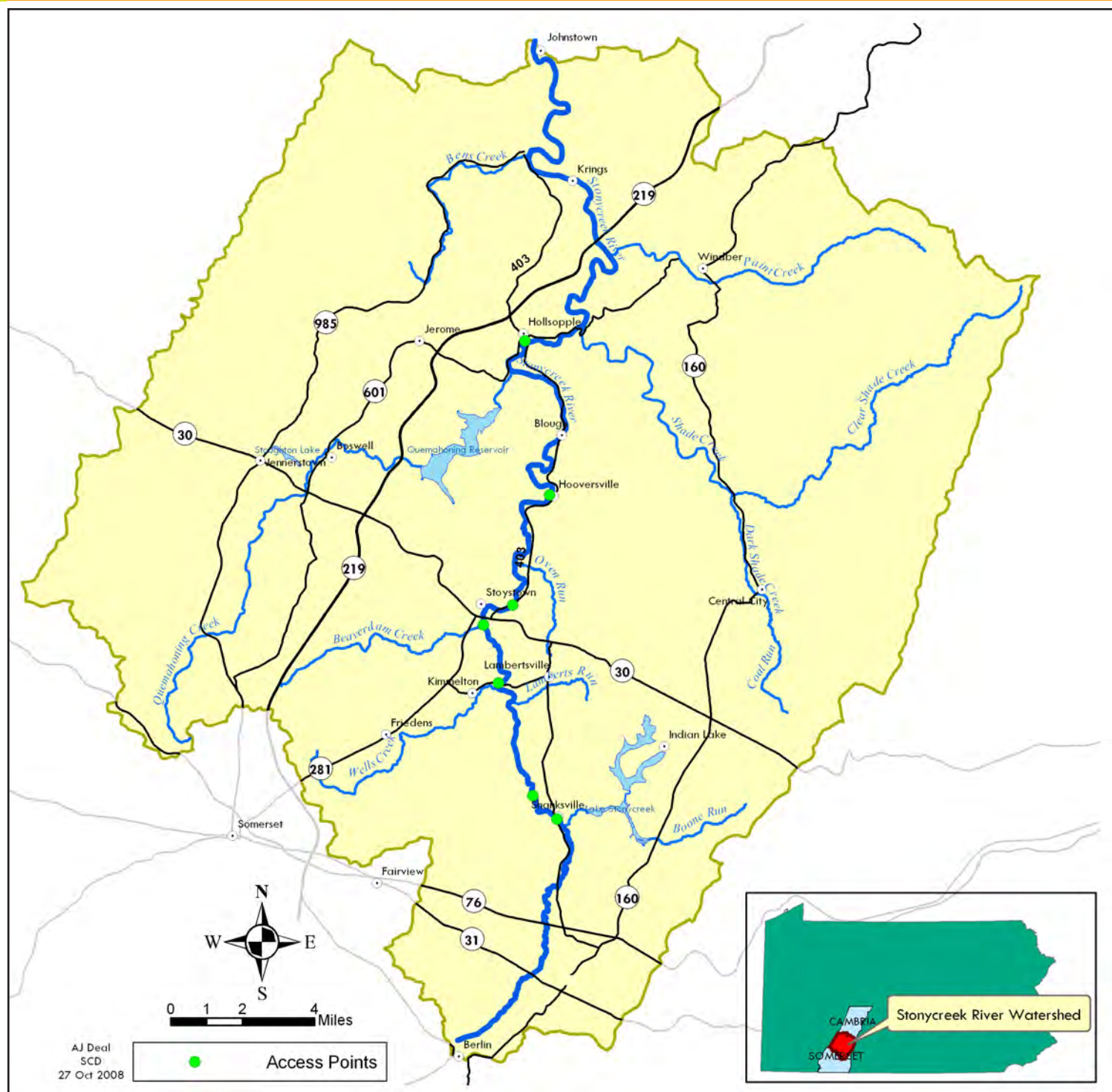
The Upper Stonycreek River is home to mainly trout, but smallmouth bass are also present in some areas. The PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) stocks the Upper Gorge from Shanksville to Stoystown with fingerling trout to provide a put and grow fishery. The area upstream of Shanksville is stocked with adult fish. The trout in the Gorge are mostly holdovers of stocked adult trout and growing

fingerlings from previous years and are primarily Brown and Rainbows. Although there are few truly wild fish in the Stonycreek River, the holdover trout have become wary and wise and offer challenging angling. Smallmouth bass and rock bass now also offer angling opportunities in most of the river from Kantner to Johnstown. These two species were reintroduced to the river by the PFBC and SCRIP when water quality improved in the early 2000s.



The Upper Stonycreek is a beautiful river with lush vegetation and many insect species, including an abundance of caddisflies and stoneflies with a moderate population of mayflies. Stoneflies are especially active in the first few weeks of June, presenting the opportunity for a memorable day of fishing. The brochure from the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, "Guide to Fishing the Stonycreek River," has more specific details about fishing the river.

Fisheries of the Stonycreek River Basin



Equipment

Almost all streams in the Stonycreek-Conemaugh watershed are easy to traverse and can be waded with hip boots. The exception is the Stonycreek River where chest waders are desirable in times of high flow. Also, no one should venture into the Stonycreek and portions of the Little Conemaugh at any time without the aid of specialized rubber non-felt soled boots and a wading staff.



spinning rods of six to seven feet long and reels spooled with four to six pound test line are suitable for most waters. Bait should consist of salmon eggs, minnows, cheese and the ever-popular earthworm. Fishing these offerings slow and deep, especially in the first few weeks of the season, is the key to success. Artificial lure anglers can score well throughout the year with small spinners. Fly-and-spinner combinations can also be productive.

Fly-rod anglers have many choices. A rod of 7 1/2 to nine feet with a four- or five-weight line is ideal. Early-season fly fishing means going deep with caddis larva and stonefly nymphs. The woolly bugger and flashbugger work well in discolored water. Crayfish imitations and streamers should also be part of the arsenal. As late spring and summer arrive, hatches of caddisflies, mayflies and stoneflies provide top water action. A downwing pattern such as an elk hair caddis is a wise choice. Blue winged olives, yellow cahills and slate drakes are the mayfly hatches to watch for. As water levels drop, longer leaders and finer tippets are recommended.

Because of the continued efforts to improve water quality of the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers, anglers now have the opportunity to fish and recreate in ways that were previously unavailable. Angling from kayaks and canoes is becoming increasingly popular on the rivers.



Wild Trout

Although most trout in the Stonycreek-Conemaugh watershed are stocked, there is a surprising amount of naturally reproducing fish. Many small tributaries flowing off the east slope of Laurel Ridge offer angling for wild brook and rainbow trout. A small tributary to the Quemauchong Reservoir harbors a population of wild brown trout. Larger waters such as Clear Shade, Bens Creek and Beaverdam Run offer viable populations of wild trout in addition to stocked fish. The wild fish are a testament to the water quality in area streams not impacted by mine discharges. Recently efforts have been made by the Shade Creek Watershed Association and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission to expand the range of native brook trout in the headwaters of the Shade Creek watershed.



Catch & Release



Regardless of the method of choice, consider practicing catch-and-release, especially on waters that harbor wild and holdover fish. A trout is a reusable and often a renewable resource, and

does not have to be destroyed to be enjoyed. Also consider pinching down the barbs on your flies, spinners and bait hooks. Hookups are actually made easier and quicker because barbless hooks penetrate faster. In addition, less harm is done to the fish that are going to be released.

Tributaries of the Stonycreek River

Quemauchong Creek

Quemauchong Creek originates in a remote section of Somerset County near the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It meanders through woodland and farmland until it meets the North Branch of Quemauchong Creek near Jenner Crossroads. The lower portion of the stream was dammed in the early 20th Century to create the Quemauchong Reservoir to supply industrial water for steel mills in Johnstown. Although Quemauchong Creek is not approved trout water and not stocked by the PFBC, the Jenner Community Sportsmen's Club Cooperative Trout Nursery in cooperation with the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited and SCRIP have stocked the stream from the Route 30 bridge at Ferrelton to downstream of Boswell since 2005. The stocking of this lower portion of the stream was made possible by the completion of the Boswell Passive AMD Treatment System in 2004. That treatment system, along with the Jenner's Passive Treatment System, constructed in 1997, has resurrected six miles of year-round coldwater fishery and has significantly improved the water quality entering the Quemauchong Reservoir.



Beaverdam Creek

Beaverdam Creek is a smaller stream similar to Bens Creek in size. Beaverdam Creek, not to be confused with Beaverdam Run above Central City, flows directly into the Stonycreek River just South of Stoystown. Most of Beaverdam Creek flows along Dunmeyer Road, which makes the stream easily accessible. The stream is primarily an early season stream due to its smaller size and warmer water, but some stocked trout still hold into the summer. Wading is easy and the stream is stocked in the spring by the PFBC. Also, trout often move up into this tributary from the Stonycreek River.

Beaverdam Creek is relatively easy to wade and fish. Most of the fishing pressure occurs in the early part of the season, but trout are present year round. The stream has a surprisingly good diversity and quantity of insect life.

Beaverdam Run

Beaverdam Run originates just west of the Bedford County line high on Allegheny Ridge in Shade Township. It flows through woodland toward its junction with Dark Shade Creek just north of Central City. The water runs cold all year and, despite the small stream size, aquatic insects, crayfish and baitfish are abundant. The Upper reaches of Beaverdam Run hold a mixed population of wild brook trout and brown trout, but because the waterway is small and surrounded by lush vegetation the angling can be challenging. The lower section holds stocked fish and is more angler accessible, making this segment an outstanding fishery throughout the year for all skill levels of fishermen. There is some posted property along this stream and anglers should request permission accordingly.

Clear Shade Creek

Clear Shade Creek flows through the village of Ogletown and passes under Route 56 east of Windber. Clear Shade is a medium-small size stream with very good water quality. Access is difficult because most of the stream is located within the boundaries of Gallitzen State Forest. However, the stream can be reached via Clear Shade Road, a dirt road which turns off Route 56 near the Ranger Station and leads to the Fisherman's Path—part of the John P. Saylor Trail; via township Road 816, a dirt road at the village of Ashtola; and where Route 160 crosses the stream south of Windber. Although Clear Shade Creek has only limited access it is one of the best coldwater fisheries in the basin due to its phenomenal water quality and excellent insect population.

Clear Shade Creek also has the only Fly Fishing Only special regulation area in the Upper Conemaugh basin. The project water has been and continues to be a popular destination for fly rod anglers and is primarily accessed from the Windber Water Authority road located off of Route 160.

Clear Shade Creek is stocked by the Windber Sportsmen's Club and the PFBC but also offers angling for wild brook and brown trout in its upper reaches.

Cub Run and Piney Run are small, sensitive tributaries to Clear Shade Creek high on the Allegheny Ridge. Piney Run is a

wild trout stream flowing through isolated and private forest land. Cub Run and Piney Run both contain wild reproducing brook and brown trout. The insect population on both streams is extremely diverse and bounteous and streamside vegetation is very lush. Access to Cub Run can be obtained via Township Road 816 in Ashtola, which also crosses Clear Shade Creek.

The Clear Shade Creek watershed has not been mined since it serves as the water supply for Windber Borough. As with most streams flowing from atop Allegheny Ridge, acid rain is a threat. In addition, recent concerns in the watershed have surfaced in the form of development pressures along the ridgetops.

Little Paint Creek

Little Paint Creek is a small stream flowing through Elton Sportsman's Dam. It flows south along Route 160 through Elton and enters Paint Creek at Scalp Level. Access to the stream is readily available because it is close to 160 and Scalp Level.

It also holds a variety of warmwater fish species such as panfish and bass. Little Paint Creek is also stocked by the PFBC and Forest Hills Co-op with brown and brook trout. Rainbow trout are also present in the stream but not in the same numbers as brown and brook trout.

Little Paint Creek is a beautiful stream, and due to its location and good water quality, the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown has claimed a section of the stream to study and conserve its resources. Although located in Cambria County, the stream flows south into Paint Creek, which enters the Stonycreek River near the Cambria-Somerset County border.

Bens Creek

The Bens Creek and its South Fork are small but productive trout waters. They flow along Route 985 for several miles making the stream easily accessible. Numerous points of access include turn-offs and bridges with the last point upstream on 985 being the bridge near the Becca House, where the South Fork turns up to the Laurel Ridge. The North Fork of Bens Creek is interrupted by a large reservoir owned by the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. North Fork feeder streams, Riffle and Alwine Runs,

contain wild rainbow trout, but flowing down from high on Laurel Ridge are difficult to reach. Both forks and the mainstem of Bens Creek are excellent coldwater fisheries with superb water quality. The majority of the fish are stocked, but both the forks and the mainstem also have reproducing trout.

Bens Creek contains the three major trout species: brook, brown and rainbow. Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the Bens Creek is that the headwaters of North Fork are home to wild reproducing rainbow trout, which is exceedingly rare in Pennsylvania.

Wells Creek

Wells Creek, a tributary to the Stonycreek River in the northwest part of the watershed, is not approved trout water and is not stocked by the PFBC. However, due to the Wells Creek Watershed Association and its many partners, several AMD passive treatment systems have been constructed within the watershed in recent years. Water quality has now improved to the point that trout can and do survive year-round in the stream. The watershed association has been instrumental in securing trout and stocking them throughout the watershed. In addition, trout move up from the Stonycreek River at varying times throughout the year, adding additional fish that anglers are now able to pursue. The stream's small size makes angling challenging, especially under low water conditions. However, the stream receives very little fishing pressure, which provides the angler with an opportunity for a more secluded setting.



SCRIP also publishes a quarterly newsletter available to all members and partners. For contact information visit SCRIP on the web at www.scrip.pa-conservation.org.

SCRIP and the Stonycreek-Conemaugh Basin

The Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) was created in 1991 to address water quality problems in the Upper Conemaugh Basin. The basin includes Stonycreek River and Little Conemaugh River, which meet in Johnstown to form the Conemaugh River. The Conemaugh's confluence with Loyalhanna Creek creates the Kiskiminetas River, which flows into the Allegheny River.

The Conemaugh Basin is beautiful, straddled by the highest ridges in Pennsylvania. Laurel Ridge tops 2,600 feet to the west and Allegheny Ridge tops 2,700 feet to the east. The Conemaugh River cutting through Laurel Ridge forms Conemaugh Gap, one of the steepest river gorges in the eastern U.S. The basin has great potential for canoeing and fishing because of the slopes and elevations of the streams and rivers. The many headwaters with native, reproducing brook trout illustrate the fishery potential of the basin.

But the ridges that make the region so beautiful and the headwaters such fine, cold-water fisheries contained vast coal reserves. Over 150 years of mining has left major environmental damage, known as abandoned mine drainage or AMD. Passive treatment technologies, using limestone drains and wetlands, have made treatment feasible by increasing pH values and removing metals. SCRIP and its partners were successful in implementing the 6-site \$5 million Owen Run AMD abatement project that has revived much of the fishery in the Stonycreek River over the last 20 years.

SCRIP is a coalition of grass roots groups and local resource agencies drawing in sportsmen, environmental groups, municipalities, businesses, coal operators, schools, etc. SCRIP was created with assistance from U.S. Congressman John Murtha in conjunction with the Somerset and Cambria County Conservation Districts. With the grassroots involvement and political support, SCRIP has succeeded in establishing public-private partnerships with many agencies such as the PA Department of Environmental Protection, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, US Office of Surface Mining and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Fisheries of the Stonycreek & Upper Conemaugh Basin



A Guide to Fishing the Stonycreek, Little Conemaugh and Tributaries in the Upper Conemaugh basin.



Prepared by the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP)

Little Conemaugh River

North Branch Little Conemaugh



The North Branch of the Little Conemaugh River flows out of the Wilmore Dam and into the main branch of the Little Conemaugh River. The stream is located off Route 160 on Evergreen Road in Wilmore and near Route 53 above Summerhill. The North Branch is medium-sized and contains many runs and pools. The stream is easily accessible for most of its course because of the many pull-off areas next to the stream.

The North Branch contains a majority population of brown and rainbow trout with a minority population of brook trout. The stream is stocked by the PFBC with brown and rainbow trout, but is also home to holdover trout from the previous stockings.

The North Branch is an easy stream to wade and access by walking a short distance from the parking area. Although the stream does not support many wild trout, this does not necessarily infer poor water quality. In fact, the water quality for the North Branch is good and can be equated with the upper reaches of the Little Conemaugh mainstem. Warm water temperature is the main limiting factor to trout survival in this stream.

South Fork Little Conemaugh

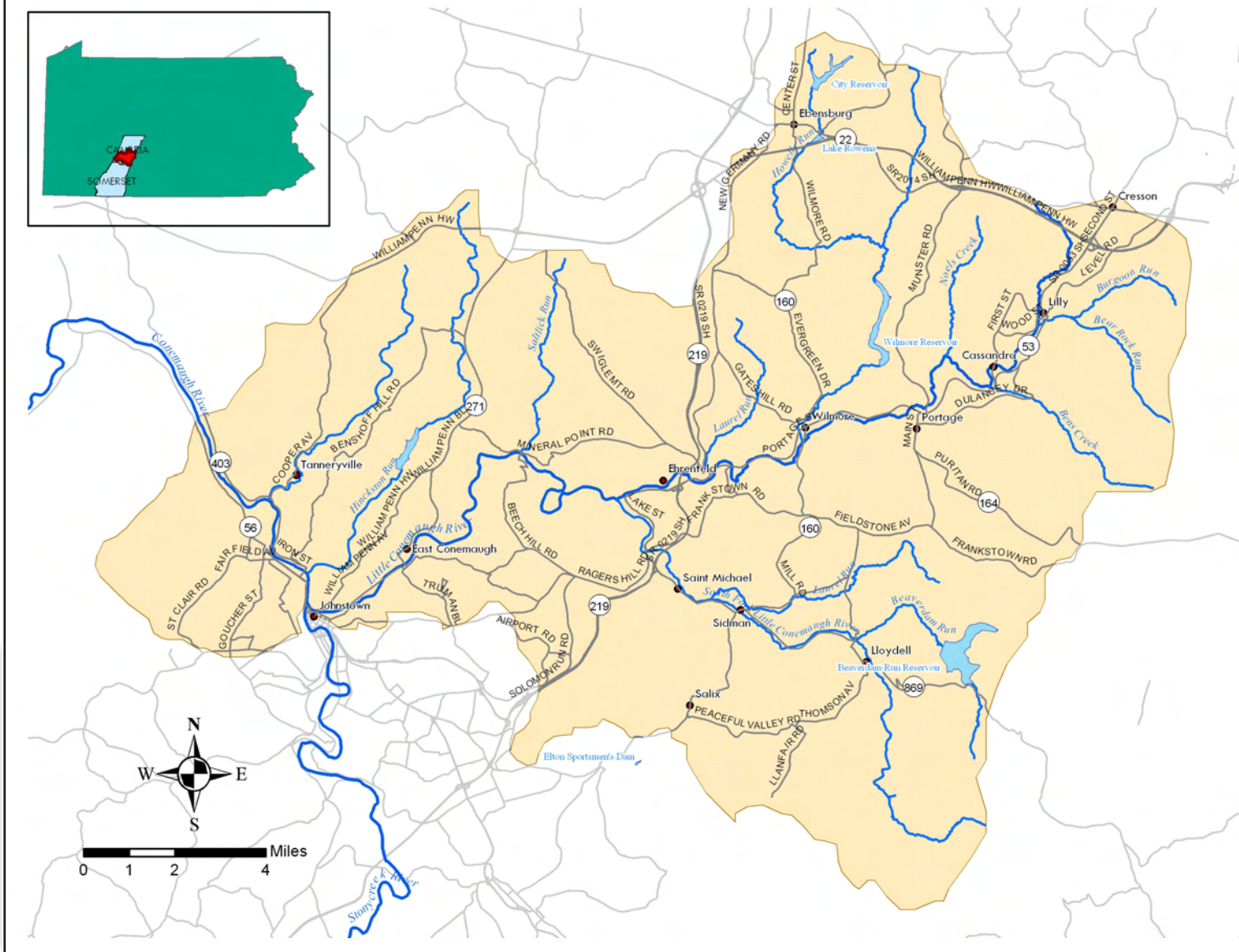
The headwaters of the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River were approved in 1995 as an addition to the Wilderness Trout Program of the PFBC. The stream flows down the Allegheny Ridge through State Game Lands and land owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The designated wilderness trout section of the stream is above Beaverdale Reservoir, and can be accessed only by foot. The stream has a large population of native brook trout, ranking in the top 20% statewide in pounds of fish per acre of water. The stream also has an excellent pool-to-riffle ratio and the undisturbed watershed keeps the water clear of silt. However, typical of streams on the high ridges, it has little alkalinity for buffering capacity to neutralize the effects of acid rain.

The South Fork headwaters contain native reproducing brook trout, and in large numbers. However, typical of fish that never see a hatchery, these fish rarely exceed 10 inches in length.

The two-mile stretch of headwaters designated as a Wilderness Trout stream is a small but very clear stream. Although the stream has a large population of native brookies, as with any native stream-bred population, it could be damaged by overfishing. Catch and release is suggested for this water—and when the lunkers here are only 8 to 10 inches long, this is obviously not the place to go in preparation for a large fish fry.



Fisheries of the Upper Conemaugh Basin



Cooperative Nurseries For More Information

Many streams in the Stonycreek and Upper Conemaugh Basin are stocked by cooperative trout nurseries operated by sportsmen's clubs. Fish are provided to the co-ops by the PFBC and all fish must be stocked in publicly accessible waters.



Some co-op fish and fish purchased by watershed organizations from private fisheries have been used to supplement fisheries already enhanced by PFBC stockings and more importantly utilized to resurrect a fishery in a watershed that is only now beginning to recover from the ravages of AMD.

Streams in the Little Conemaugh Basin that are stocked only by co-op nurseries are:
Sandy Run is stocked by both Forest Hills Trout co-op and Dunlo Rod & Gun Club. Both clubs also plant some fish in the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh below the area designated as a wilderness trout stream.
Kane Run, Lick Run and Lower and Upper Beaver are stocked by Forest Hills Trout co-op, while Otto Run and Little Beaver Run are stocked by Dunlo Rod & Gun Club.

Streams in the Stonycreek Basin stocked only by co-op nurseries: Windber Sportsmen stocks **Biscuit Spring, Buffalo Pond, Quemahoning Rod & Gun Club Pond and Windber Sportsmen's Pond**. Jenner Community Sportsmen's Club stocks **Card Machine Run and Quemahoning Creek**.

- ### Websites
- *Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
www.fish.state.pa.us
 - *SCRIP
www.scrip.pa-conservation.org
 - *Mountain Laurel Chapter Trout Unlimited (MLTU)
www.mlту.org
 - *Cambria Somerset Authority
www.cambriasomersetwater.com
 - *Stonycreek Quemahoning Initiative
www.thestonycreek.com

- ### Guides, Publications and DVD
- *Guide to Fishing the Stonycreek River, produced by MLTU
 - *PA Trout Streams and their Hatches, revised edition by Charles Meck
 - *Mid Atlantic Budget Angler by Ann McIntosh
 - *River Fact Sheets available by contacting SCRIP.
 - *The Stonycreek River was also featured on national television on TUTV. Copies in DVD format are available by contacting MLTU.

Financial support for this project is provided by the Dominion Foundation, which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion Companies. This grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration.

Tributaries of the Upper Conemaugh River

Bens Creek--Portage

Bens Creek near Portage can be reached from Route 53 by taking Benscreek Road to Strawberry Road, a dirt road, where the stream is then accessible. Stream access is limited to this small dirt road, and due to the various chained locked fences blocking access to motor vehicles, walking is most opportune. The stream is very difficult to fish in some places due to the dense mountain laurel and other plant life that interfere with casting. Ben's Creek is a smaller stream capable of holding many fish. The upper portion is not stocked due to the healthy population of wild brook trout.

Ben's Creek contains brown, brook and some rainbow trout. The brook and brown trout are stocked both in-season and out of season. The stream also contains some holdover trout and wild brook trout, but most of the population comes from stocked fish.

Hinckston Run

Hinckston Run is a high-gradient stream originating in the mountainous terrain along Route 22 in Jackson Township. It flows 10.6 miles to the Johnstown neighborhood of Minersville, where it enters the mainstem of the Conemaugh River. Its course is interrupted by Hinckston Run Dam. A two-mile section immediately upstream of the dam is stocked by the PFBC. Hinckston Run is close to Johnstown, a sizable population base, and that is a factor in the stocking numbers. The stream is small but has good cover from undercut banks, large boulders, and small swift pools. The stream is accessible by several township roads (T-419, T-739 and T-405) that intersect Route 271 near Vinco. Brook trout, the heartiest of the trout species, are the only sport fish present in Hinckston Run because of the occasional problems with acidity.

Laurel Run--Tanneryville

This Laurel Run is located directly outside the city of Johnstown off Route 403 and flows directly into the Conemaugh River. It is a stream of diminishing water quality because of abandoned mine drainage. Discharges can be found on the stream, and although not being very large, they still have affected the stream's vitality over the past few years. It is a smaller stream but flows faster than most streams in the Upper Conemaugh basin. Access can be gained at Laurel Run Park or anywhere along Cooper Avenue above where it branches off Route 403 near the Johnstown America Corp. building.

Brook, brown and rainbow trout can be found in this stream with lengths averaging 8 to 10 inches, but some of the inhabitants can grow much longer. The fishery is sustained by PFBC stocking efforts.

Laurel Run--Sidman

Laurel Run is located along Roberts Road and Route 160, flowing past Sidman and into the South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River just east of the access road to the Johnstown Flood National Memorial. This Laurel Run is a small stream that is very accessible due to the number of bridges and pull-off points along the way. The stream's best water is located behind Dunlo Sportman's Club in Dunlo. Parking is available across the street from the club and the water is located in the club's property. The club does allow non-members to fish the stream because the water is not privately owned by the club.

Laurel Run is stocked by the PFBC and Dunlo Sportsman's Club in the section behind their clubhouse. The PFBC stocks the water mostly at the bridges because the access is easiest at these points. Brown, brook and rainbow trout are stocked by the PFBC during the spring.

Noel's Creek

Noel's Creek is a small stream located off of Route 53 on Sportsman's Road in Portage. The stream is home to four small dams which create beautiful pools and deep holes. These features of the stream help to hold the fish that live here. The pools contain a substantial number of fish mostly because of their depth and food content. The stream is easily accessible, but due to its smaller size it can sometimes be difficult to fish. Although it is a smaller stream, the angler can still have a memorable day of fishing. Noel's Creek is stocked by the PFBC primarily with brown and brook trout during the trout season. The stream also contains some rainbows and holdover fish. In addition, it is home to a few wild trout.

Howell's Run

Howell's Run flows from Lake Rowena into Wilmore Dam. The stream is located off Route 22 and about two miles before the Ebensburg exit traveling eastbound on State Route 2013. It is a smaller stream with many riffles and runs where the fish usually lie. The stream is very accessible because several bridges run over it, including Spinner Road just above Wilmore Dam. The stream is heavily stocked in its middle and lower portions. The stream is fairly easy for the average angler to fish because the bank vegetation is only moderately inhibiting.

Howell's Run is stocked by the PFBC with brown and rainbow trout, mostly at the bridges on the middle and lower sections. The rainbows will travel great distances in short periods of time in order to find the stretch of water that pleases them the most. Some of these fish will even travel downstream to the Wilmore Dam.

Quemahoning Reservoir

The Quemahoning Reservoir, located in Conemaugh, Jenner and Quemahoning Townships in Somerset County as well as Hinckston Reservoir, Wilmore Reservoir, and South Fork and Border Dams were publicly acquired in 2000 thanks to the efforts initiated by SCRIP and local sportsmen and conservation organizations.

The Quemahoning is the largest of the reservoirs with 899 acres of water surface and 12 miles of shoreline. The Quemahoning is owned and operated by the Cambria Somerset Authority and the fishery is managed by the PFBC. The angling opportunities at the reservoir

are both diverse and challenging. The reservoir is home to largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, pike, trout, carp and a variety of panfish. The reservoir is managed under PFBC Big Bass and Panfish Enhancement Regulations. Fishing can be done from the shoreline as well as from non-gasoline powered boats. The primary boat launch is located at the family recreation park area and there are several car-top boat launches and parking lots scattered around the lake.

The reservoir has benefited from the water quality improvements implemented in the Quemahoning Creek watershed that have significantly reduced the AMD pollution entering the reservoir, which has increased the recreational angling opportunities. In addition, through the sponsorship of the Somerset Conservation District, the PFBC's Bureau of Habitat Management Lake Division has been able to build and place numerous habitat enhancement structures in the reservoir with the assistance of local sportsmen volunteers. The combination of these two initiatives is already paying dividends in terms of the quantity and quality of the fishery available.

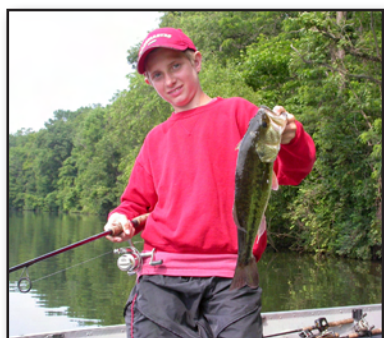
In addition to fishing, other recreational opportunities at the reservoir include kayaking and boating, hunting, hiking trails, mountain biking and swimming. Campsites, pavilions and sanitary facilities are also available at the Quemahoning Family Recreation Park. Information of rates and fees for the use of these facilities can be obtained by calling 814-233-9512 or 814-629-9744. Additional information can also be obtained on the web at www.cambriasomersetwater.com.

Wilmore Reservoir

Located in Munster, Portage and Summerhill Townships in Cambria County, Wilmore Reservoir encompasses 195 acres. Angling for a variety of warmwater species is available from the shoreline as well as from non-gasoline powered boats. There is a boat launch and a handicapped accessible fishing pier as well as picnic tables, pavilions and restrooms. The reservoir has been noted for its excellent panfish angling opportunities, most notably crappies, bass and catfish. The reservoir is owned and operated by the Cambria Somerset Authority and the fishery is managed by the PFBC. The reservoir has also benefited from the placement of fish habitat structures through the efforts of the Cambria County Conservation District, PFBC and local volunteers. Additional information is available at www.cambriasomersetwater.com.

Hinckston Run Reservoir

Hinckston Run Reservoir, located in Middle and East Taylor Townships in Cambria County, encompasses an area of 104 acres. The reservoir is owned and operated by the Cambria Somerset Authority and the fishery is managed by the PFBC. Angling for a variety of warmwater species is available along the shoreline and by non-gasoline powered boats. There is a trailer boat launch, picnic tables and pavilions available for use as well. The reservoir has also benefited from the placement of fish habitat structures through the efforts of the Cambria County Conservation District, PFBC and local volunteers. Additional information is available at www.cambriasomersetwater.com.



Lake Rowena

Lake Rowena is both a cold water and warm water fishery. The lake is readily accessible, located in Ebensburg off Route 22 on Lake View Road. Boats with electric motors are permitted. Even though the reservoir's maximum depth is about 15 feet, fish holdover all year long. The lake falls under the Fish & Boat Commission's extended trout regulations, so it is open year round to fishing except from April 1 to opening day of trout season. The lake has a handicapped accessible dock and is a perfect lake to bring the family and kids to picnic on a Sunday afternoon.

Lake Rowena is home to a variety of fish including rainbow, brown and brook trout, panfish, largemouth, smallmouth and rock bass, pickerel, crappie and other panfish. The PFBC stocks the lake in the spring with rainbow trout, some of which top 20 inches in length.

Beaverdam Run Reservoir

Beaverdam Run Reservoir, located off of Route 869 in Summerhill Township, was opened to fishing in 2000 through the cooperation of Highland Sewer and Water Authority when local conservationists made arrangements to police the area and obtained a small grant through the Kiski Basin Initiative to provide access. The stream below the reservoir also holds fish. The Reservoir holds bass and panfish, and Beaverdam Run holds trout. The reservoir is also stocked by the PFBC.

Elton Sportsmen's Dam

Elton Sportsmen's Dam is a three acre impoundment on Little Paint Creek just off of Route 160 near Elton in Adams Township. Built in the 1950's by The Elton Sportsmen's Club, it lies on Berwind Corp., property. It survived the 1977 flood but was silted in by a wash out of the railroad bed upstream along with a small dam that breached above it on the golf course. This dam held even though it was flooded over. Now the PA Fish & Boat Commission, under a lease agreement with the Berwind Corporation, manages the Elton Sportsmen's Dam. The Sportsmen's club maintains the parking lot and polices the area. It is listed as a coldwater stocked trout fishery.

Ebensburg Reservoirs

These two impoundments are owned by Ebensburg Borough and are open to public fishing. Located on Howell's Run in the headwaters just northeast of Ebensburg in Cambria Township, these two impoundments are sources for the borough's drinking water and are classified as warm water fisheries.

All the fishing is shoreline only--Fishing from the dams, wading, boating and ice fishing are prohibited. Panfish, perch and largemouth bass are mostly caught here. Accesses to the smaller 10 acre impoundment can be obtained by traveling to the Borough public swimming pool. It lies just west of the parking lot. Access is limited on the 80 acre reservoir because most of the west and east shorelines have no road frontage. The larger reservoir is north and upstream of the smaller older one and can be accessed behind the CamTran Bus Terminal along US Route 219 on the north end of town, just past the Cambria County Fairgrounds. You must walk in to get to the water. The Borough owns some surrounding property, but some access is across private property so get landowner permission first. Tanner Street (T-454) comes very close to the back end of this dam. Because of the undeveloped access both reservoirs get limited use. Ebensburg Borough has these reservoirs enrolled in the Cooperative Management Program with the PA Fish & Boat Commission along with Lake Rowena. All the impoundments are patrolled.

Lakes, Reservoirs and Warmwater Fishing

This publication is dedicated to the memory of Lester McNutt, a founding board member of SCRIP, sportsman and active conservationist from Somerset County.

Join SCRIP Today!



Support Restoration of our Waterways.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Email Address _____

- \$12 Individual
 - \$6 Student
 - \$20 Family
 - \$50 Patron
 - \$50 Club/Small Business
 - \$100 Sustaining
 - \$500 Sponsor
- Mail Checks to:
 SCRIP
 PO Box 153
 Johnstown, PA 15907

Checks made payable to the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy/SCRIP are tax deductible; Southern Alleghenies Conservancy is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization.